



301107

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION REPORT

Trail  
Boards

**I. HEADING**

Date: October 10, 1997  
Subject: Metro Plating Time Critical Removal Action Site,  
Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan  
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POLREP No.: 1 (Initial)

**II. BACKGROUND**

Site No.: B503  
Delivery Order Numbers: 5001-05-431 (RES)  
5001-05-687 (EQM)  
Response Authority: CERCLA  
Cerclis Number: MID 985 656 800  
NPL Status: Not on NPL  
MDEQ Notification: MDEQ notified  
Latitude/Longitude: 42°22'19" North/83°04'30" West  
Start Date: September 22, 1997  
Completion Date: NA

**III. SITE INFORMATION**

- A. Incident Category Abandoned Plating Facility  
B. Site Description

## 1. Site location

The Metro Plating Inc. (MPI) site is located at  
220 E. Milwaukee Street in Detroit, Wayne County,  
Michigan. The site is located at geographical

coordinates 42°22'19" North and 83°04'30" West. The site is situated in a commercial area and is bordered to the north by E. Milwaukee Street, small commercial buildings, and grassy and parking areas. Paved parking areas and commercial buildings are located to the east of MPI. An alley, several commercial and abandoned buildings, a fenced area littered with debris, and a church are situated south of MPI. A grassy area, John R. Street, an automotive repair shop, and additional commercial businesses are located west of MPI. Many large office buildings, including the Fisher and General Motors buildings, and the Henry Ford Hospital Complex are located within 1 mile of the site.

The Metro Plating site is an abandoned electroplating, anodizing, and polishing facility which operated under the name of Metro Plating. The property has been abandoned for a number of years and ownership is in the process of reverting to the State of Michigan due to nonpayment of taxes.

## 2. Description of threat

In November 1996, the City of Detroit Environmental Department contacted the U.S. EPA Region 5 Office of Superfund, Emergency Response Branch and requested U.S. EPA evaluate the property for a potential Emergency and/or Expedited Response Action.

A time critical Removal Action is being initiated at this time in order to mitigate an imminent and substantial threat to human health and the environment posed by potentially incompatible electroplating chemicals, such as caustics, acids, and heavy metals.

## C. Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection Results

On April 17, 1997 the U.S. EPA tasked the Ecology & Environment, Inc. (E & E) Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) to perform a site inspection of the facility at 220 E. Milwaukee Street, Detroit, Michigan.

The initial site assessment identified numerous vats filled, or partially filled with plating solutions. The building contained approximately 13 drums with numerous additional drums in the alleyway and fenced areas south of the MPI site. The vats were staged in an area with a sunken floor and no rails or other

barricades prevented a trespasser from entering the vat area. The sunken floor was covered with a thin layer of caustic liquid.

Although the site had been secured by the City of Detroit in June 1996, the plywood had been partially removed allowing access to the building. Trespassers were present in the building on the day of the U.S. EPA and START site assessment.

Analytical results from samples collected during the site assessment of April 17, 1997, indicated that the vats and drums contained various solutions with corrosive characteristics (pH ranging from 0.32 to 13.2). Many of the samples also contained high levels of TCLP zinc, nickel, chrome, copper, and lead.

On August 1, 1997, an Action Memoranda was signed authorizing a time critical removal action.

#### IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

##### A. Situation

##### 1. Current situation

U.S. EPA, START, and ERCS mobilized to the site to begin time critical removal activities. Mobilization of necessary equipment was initiated.

##### 2. Removal activities to date: September 10 - October 10, 1997

On September 10, 1997, a delivery order was issued to Riedel Environmental Services (RES).

On September 11, 1997, a site walk was performed by U.S. EPA, START, and ERCS (RES) to plan for removal activities. ERCS (RES), START, and U.S. EPA mobilized to the site on September 22, 1997.

On September 22 and 23, 1997, a command post was established. Nonhazardous debris was cleared from the alleyway and the main south entrance to the building. The crew began constructing the drum staging pad in the east room of the building.

On September 24, 1997, U.S. EPA, START, and ERCS (RES) temporarily demobed from site. All building entrances were secured.

On September 27, 1997, a delivery order was issued to Environmental Quality Management (EQM).

On September 28, 1997, the delivery order issued to RES expired.

On September 29, 1997, a site walk was performed by U.S. EPA, START, and ERCS (EQM). ERCS (EQM), START, and U.S. EPA prepared for site mobilization.

On October 6, 1997, U.S. EPA, START, and ERCS (EQM) mobilized to site. The ERCS crew staged drums for sampling.

On October 7, 1997, the ERCS crew sampled containers at site. The samples are hazcatted by a chemist mobilized to site. Based on hazcat results, wastestreams are created and composite samples are collected for analysis. A laboratory is procured by ERCS for sample analysis and the composite samples are shipped. Sample results are expected on October 13 or 14, 1997.

On October 8 and 9, 1997, the ERCS crew collected nonhazardous, but dangerous debris from in the building and bagged it for disposal. Also bagged were facility records.

On October 10, 1997, a limited extent of contamination investigation was done in the fenced area south of the alley. Soil at numerous locations was visually inspected for surface as well as vertical discoloration. Over much of the site, construction debris or roots were encountered at about 1 foot depth. Facility records were reviewed by a U.S. EPA enforcement specialist. Site was temporarily demobed pending laboratory analytical results.

#### B. Planned Removal Activities

The site health and safety plan will be finalized. All waste will continue to be identified, inventoried and characterized. Incompatible materials will be segregated. Any contaminated soil or sludge found on site will be removed. Contaminated debris will be consolidated for disposal. All hazardous waste will be transported and disposed in compliance with U.S. EPA's Off Site Rule (40 CFR Section 300.440). A limited extent-of-contamination (EOC) study of the on-site soils in the vicinity of all surface spillage. All highly contaminated soil will be identified in the EOC and disposed. All contaminated surfaces will be pressure washed.

C. Next Steps

Analytical results will confirm bulking plan and wastestream segregation. Disposal arrangements will be finalized. Disposal of all hazardous waste will be initiated. Decontaminated, empty waste containers will be disposed of. An Extent of Contamination study will be completed for the fenced area south of the alley.

D. Key Issues

On the afternoon of September 23, 1997, the ERCS crew was demobilized from the site due to a lapse in their workers compensation insurance. Subsequently, U.S. EPA and START also demobilized from the site. The ERCS response manager procured a contractor to secure the building using plywood and retained the security personnel for additional on-site security. A remobilization date was set for October 6, 1997 and activities have continued with a new ERCS contractor.

V. **COST INFORMATION**

Estimated Costs: (as of 10 October 1997)

	Ceiling	Total to Date*
Extramural Costs		
ERCS Contractor (RES)	\$ 30,000	\$ 18,171*
ERCS Contractor (EQM)	\$260,000	\$ 20,877*
START Contractor (E&E)	\$ 35,000	\$ 4,958
Total Extramural Costs	\$325,000	\$ 44,006
Intramural Costs		
U.S. EPA Direct Cost	\$ 19,800	\$ 1,995
U.S. EPA Indirect Cost	\$ 39,000	\$ 4,329
U.S. EPA Other Costs	\$ 1,200	\$ 0
Total Intramural Costs	\$ 60,000	\$ 6,324
Project Ceiling	\$387,000	
Estimated Total Costs to Date		\$ 50,330
Percent of Project Funds Remaining		86.99%

\*Includes awaits.

VI. **DISPOSITION OF WASTES**

No waste has been disposed.